

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094892

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 5668 SENT SECSTATE SECDEF USIA DATED
MAY 7.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05668

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IO, UK

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON INDIAN OCEAN CONSULTATIONS
AND DIEGO GARCIA

1. MAY 6 FINANCIAL TIMES (FT) AND MAY 7 LONDON TIMES AND
GUARDIAN CARRY REPORTS(F ARTICLE CARRIED WASHINGTON BY-LINE)
THAT U.S. AND UK OFFICIALS ARE HOLDING A
"FURTHER ROUND OF TALKS ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S PLAN TO EX-
PAND THE U.S. MILITARY BASE ON DIEGO GARCIA." REPORTS
NOTE THAT U.S. TEAM HEADED BY WEISS IS IN LONDON FOR TWO
DAY CONFERENCE ON INDIAN OCEAN. GUARDIAN REPORTS THAT
DIEGO GARCIA WILL BE ONE OF MAIN ITEMS ON AGENDA.
GUARDIAN ALSO REPORTS THAT WHILE FCO SOURCES SAY FACI-
LITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA ARE NOT TO BE DISCUSSED IT "WOULD
APPEAR ALMOST INCREDIBLE THAT THESE SENIOR OFFICIALS OF
TWO NATO GOVERNMENTS...WHO WERE WORKING TOGETHER ON THE
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DIEGO GARCIA PROBLEM...ARE NOW TO ASSEMBLE AROUND THE

TABLE AND YET NOT MENTION DIEGO GARCIA".

2. COMMENT: IN PRELIMINARY SESSION MAY 6 WITH STODDART, PM AND JACKSON, FCO ON AGENDA FOR MAY 8-9 INDIAN OCEAN TALKS QUESTION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS LINE REGARDING DIEGO AROSE ON BASIS FT ARTICLE CITED ABOVE. IT WAS AGREED THAT IN EVENT OF ANTICIPATED QUERIES WE WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THAT TALKS WERE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN CONTEXT OF ROUTINE, PERIODIC DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN RESPECTIVE OFFICIALS ON POLITICO-MILITARY MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, TO INCLUDE BROAD INDIAN OCEAN AREA. IF SPECIFICALLY

QUERIED ON DIEGO GARCIA WE WOULD NOTE THAT DIEGO OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN TERMS OF ITS ROLE IN INDIAN OCEAN FRAMEWORK BUT THAT PURPOSE OF THIS WEEKS TALKS WAS NOT INTENDED TO REVIEW U.S. EXPANSION PLANS ON THE ISLAND OR HMG REVIEW OF THESE PLANS. SUGGEST AASHINGTON FOLLOW PARALLEL PRESS LINE ON FIELDING QUERIES. SOHM UNQUOTE RUSH

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